



St. George Field Office
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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ST. GEORGE RMP AMENDMENT AND EIS OVERVIEW

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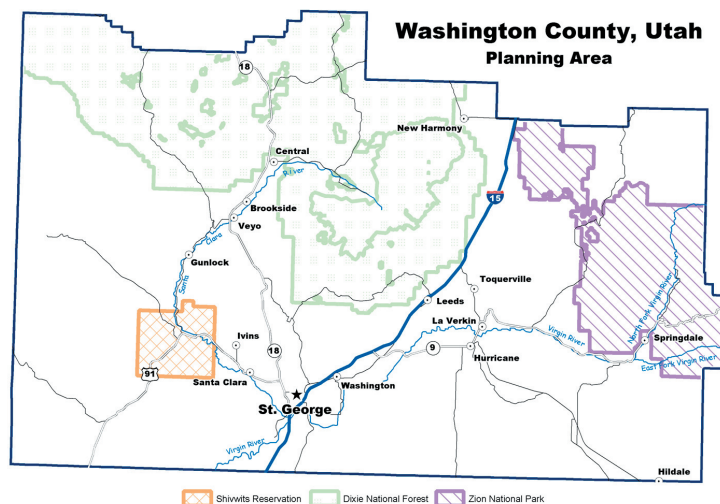
Project Purpose

The use of public lands by motorized vehicles for recreation and other land use activities in Washington County, Utah is important to a wide variety of individuals, communities, groups, tribes, agencies and business enterprises. Federal policy requires that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provide the public with sufficient information to ensure that motorized travel on public lands is conducted safely with due regard to protection of the environment and the rights of other land users and adjacent landowners. Completion of a comprehensive route designation plan (not included in the 1999 Resource Management Plan (RMP)) is necessary for agencies, law enforcement officials, and public land users to know where motorized travel is allowed or restricted. Preparation of this RMP amendment is also to comply with BLM's national OHV strategy and to implement recommendations of the Utah Natural Resource Coordinating Committee and BLM's Utah Resource Advisory Council on OHV management.

Establishing route designations will fulfill many important objectives, including:

- providing the public with a clearly marked network of roads and trails with signs and maps to promote public safety, awareness, and enhanced recreation opportunities.
- reducing growing conflicts between increased motorized recreation and important resource values on public lands in Washington County,
- promoting citizen-based opportunities for trail stewardship, monitoring, and system management.
- supporting law enforcement officials in promoting compliance with OHV regulations and effective deterrents to abuses of public lands.

The BLM is working collaboratively with Washington County, various agencies, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and interested parties to identify the management decisions that best address local, regional, and national needs and concerns.



NEXT STEPS

Februray 2005 - BLM to host public scoping meetings

October 2005 - Draft RMP Amendment/EIS to be released for public review and comment

July 2006 - Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS to be released for public review

September 2006 - Federal environmental documentation to be completed; Record of Decision signed

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain further information about the OHV Plan Amendment, please contact the following individuals:

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Electronic information and feedback options are available for your convenience. Please visit the project Web site at www.stgeorgeohvplan.com or email your comments to stgeorge_ohvplan@blm.gov.

Public Participation is Encouraged and Welcomed

The BLM St. George Field Office is committed to fully informing and engaging potentially affected communities and agencies throughout the planning process. Early participation is encouraged in helping to determine future OHV management on public lands addressed in this amendment. Understanding your views about the OHV route and area designations, and the scope and content of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, are critical to developing sound project alternatives. In addition to the two scoping meetings being hosted by the BLM in February 2005, there will be additional opportunities for public input when the Draft RMP Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is released later this year.

In addition, the BLM welcomes opportunities to attend meetings with community groups to answer questions and share ideas throughout plan development. They are also available by phone for individual inquiries or comments (please see "For More Information" section).

Environmental Review Initiated

The BLM has initiated an environmental review of the RMP Plan Amendment according to the standards established by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This review will include a scientific study and evaluation of several plan alternatives, resulting in an analysis of the possible physical, biological, social, and economic impacts.

Environmental factors to be considered include land use and planning, recreation, biological resources, air quality, noise, cultural resources and public health/hazards.

A Draft RMP Amendment/EIS will be prepared to describe and evaluate reasonable plan alternatives and to foster informed public participation.